



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eastern Correctional Institution Inmate-Made Float Ready for the Crisfield Crab Derby Labor Day Weekend

Boat pulling a water skiing crab is a real "Crustacean Sensation"

TOWSON, MD (August 31, 2006)---The inmate float-builders at Eastern Correctional Institution are at it again. Under the tutelage of ECI staff, they have once again made a parade float that's sure to please the crowds and win an award.

This weekend, ECI will showcase its "Crustacean Sensation," an imaginative outboard motor boat pulling a huge water skiing crab. The 25-foot-long float will include real children pulled on inner tubes and adults in the boat during the Crisfield Crab Derby on Labor Day.

Six inmates built the float under the direction of ECI Lt. Karen Raimundo. The frame is wood; everything else is made of cardboard and chicken wire. The motor has exhaust and sound effects.

ECI perennially wins top honors for its creative floats during the Christmas season. Berlin, Pocomoke, and Salisbury parade marshals have all given the prison's inmate-made floats awards in recent years. In 2003, parade-goers were treated to a float that featured 13 moving figures including Santa.

The inmates use scrap materials in the Rehab Shop, and are supervised by ECI staff, who recognize the value of reducing inmates' idle time and allowing them to work on vocational skills that could potentially help them land a job once they return to society.

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